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Apparently, if any unusually high odor is observed in the air, the residents have a telephone number through which they can contact a Vulcan representative who will come and drive around to try to locate and identify the odor, thereby, tracking down and determining whether or not the source of the odor is on Vulcan property. Sometimes they have been successful and sometimes they have not. There were numerous commments listing two or three different dates on which the air was particularly bad and on which residents had to either get inside their homes or leave the area.





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7 25 FUNSTON ROAD KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66115

SEP 20 1985

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Public Meeting on Cessna, Racon, Abbott Laboratories, and

Vulcan Held on 8/29/85

FROM:

Richard Tripp

EMCM/ENSV & what why

TO:

John Enger

Superfund Branch, WSTM

Before the meeting started, slips of paper were distributed by KDHE staff which asked for names, addresses and an indication of a desire to speak. These pieces of paper were collected by KDHE staff who then sorted out the ones that indicated a desire to speak. During the course of the meeting, these people were called in random order and allowed to speak.

The meeting was started by Mrs. Sabol who said that the meeting was one of many forms by which the public could comment on proposed rules, proposed rule changes and standards used and set by KDHE. She also stated that the purpose of the meeting was not to comment on Vulcan's request for deep well injection of chemicals. The comments on this subject should be submitted in writing to KDHE by August 30. With Mrs. Sabol were John Mitchell, KDHE Project Officer; Gene Underwood, KDHE staff geologist; and Steven Page, Bureau of Disease Control.

Basically the commenters had two comments which they continually made: first, that their water appeared to be contaminated by hydrocarbons; and second, that the air has been contaminated and continually smelled of hydrocarbons from the Vulcan plant. Most people living in close proximity to the plant (i.e., 1 mile), have been supplied with charcoal filters by Vulcan to purify their well water. Vulcan also supplied them with drinking water in bottles.

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Apparently, Vulcan is attempting to notify residents if chlorine gas is released. The notification process is carried out by special phones installed in residents' homes. The residents seemed to be displeased because the telephone notification system is ineffective when they are outdoors or when the telephones are out of order.

After most of the general public had spoken, Mr. Boyd of Vulcan got up and responded to some of the questions which he felt he could answer in a public forum. Basically, he said that Vulcan would continue to supply water to the people and that they would continually work with the people to alleviate some of the major problems. He also said that Vulcan has not solved all of their problems but that they are spending a great deal of money on environmental issues.

After this, Secretary Sabol stood up and said that she had spent the day with Mr. Boyd touring the Vulcan facility. At the end of the meeting, Ms. Sabol stated that KDHE was going to "sample certain wells to look for the perimeter of the problem and was going to try to better define the water contamination problem."

Basically, the people seemed to want action. They had formed a group called NAP (Neighbors Against Pollution). This probably stems from the fact that Vulcan has tried to "Be a Good Neighbor".